

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6485

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MPOL, SP US
SUBJ: SPANISH VIEWS ON AGENDA FOR THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL MEETING
UNDER THE TREATY FOR FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOLANO, SPANISH
PERMREP ON US-SPANISH COUNCIL, ON AUGUST 31 MADE THE FOL-
LOWING SUGGESTIONS TO ME REGARDING THE AGENDA FOR THE
COUNCIL MEETING:

A. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE REPORTS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, WE AGREED THAT THERE DID NOT
SEEM TO BE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE OPERATION OF ANY
OF THE COMMITTEES.(SOLANO SAID APPROPRIATE DIRECTORS
GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING.)
WE ANTICIPATED THAT IF THE COUNCIL MEETING IS ON SEPTEM-
BER 30 A REPORT OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE
27TH IN MADRID, ATTENDED BY GENERALS BROWN AND GALARZA,
WOULD BE AVAILABLE. LEFT OPEN WAS WHO MIGHT ATTEND
COUNCIL MEETING ON MILITARY SIDE FROM US AND SPAIN.

B. THE CIRCULATION TAX IN ROTA, UNLESS IT CAN BE
RESOLVED PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING.
SOLANO MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR THE UNITED STATES'
MAKING A POLITICAL DECISION TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE, EVEN
THOUGH IT WAS ADMITTEDLY A RATHER SMALL MATTER, BY PAYING
THE TAX IN ORDER TO AVOID POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN ROTA AND
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ANDALUCIA THAT COULD BALLOON OUT OF PROPORTION TO THE SIG-
NIFICANCE OF THE MATTER. I SUGGESTED THIS ITEM NOT BE
RAISED AT THE COUNCIL LEVEL AND POINTED OUT THAT OUR LEGAL
INTERPRETATION WAS THAT THE TAX SHOULD NOT BE PAID; THAT
IF IT WERE PAID IN ROTA THIS MIGHT WELL LEAD TO SIMILAR
DEMANDS IN TORREJON, ZARAGOZA AND MORON; AND THAT WE WERE
DOING OR WERE PLANNING A NUMBER OF THINGS FOR THE ROTA COM-

MUNITY THAT WERE HELPFUL AND POSITIVE, WHICH IN TOTAL WERE OF A MAGNITUDE SIMILAR TO THAT OF WHAT THE RETURNS FROM THE TAX MIGHT BE. I DID NOT REALLY SEE WHAT MORE COULD OR SHOULD BE DONE, ALTHOUGH I WOULD OF COURSE TRANSMIT HIS CONCERN AND REVIEW THE MATTER FURTHER. SOLANO DID NOT ACCEPT THE IDEA PREVIOUSLY IMPLIED THAT OTHER SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ROTA MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IN LIEU OF PAYMENT OF THE TAX AND ARGUED THAT THE CASE OF ROTA IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PLACES I MENTIONED BECAUSE VAST MAJORITY OF CARS CIRCULATING IN ROTA ARE OWNED BY US PERSONNEL.

C. TOURS D'HORIZON BY THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA ON RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE SECRETARY MIGHT TALK ABOUT THE RESULTS OF HIS TRIP TO THE NEAR EAST, THE FAR EAST AND TO MOSCOW AND DEVELOPMENTS ARISING FROM THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNING IN WASHINGTON. FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA MIGHT TALK ABOUT SPANISH-US AND SPANISH-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN SPANISH RELATIONS WITH THE MAHGREB, THE EEC AND IBERO-AMERICA COMING OUT OF RECENT TRIPS BY SUAREZ AND THE KING, RESPECTIVELY, TO THESE REGIONS. SOLANO PLACED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON OREJA'S POSSIBLE PRESENTATION ON FUTURE SPANISH RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, THUS PERHAPS FORESHADOWING BOTH AN EXPLANATION OF THE CONSTRAINTS THAT THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION PLACES ON SPAIN AND A DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT SPANISH THINK-CONFIDENTIAL

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ING REGARDING NATO. HE NOTED THAT SOME IN THE CORTES WERE NOW TALKING ABOUT WANTING TO REVIEW ALL FUTURE SPANISH FOREIGN AGREEMENTS AND THAT THERE WAS THINKING AND DISCUSSION GOING ON WITH REGARD TO WHERE THE LINE SHOULD BE DRAWN. OBVIOUSLY, MANY AGREEMENTS WOULD BE TOO MINOR FOR LEGISLATIVE REVIEW. SOLANO SUGGESTED THAT THOSE AGREEMENTS IMPINGING ON SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL CONCERNS OR INVOLVING EXPENDITURES BE THE ONES SUBJECT TO CORTES REVIEW. SOLANO ALSO SAID THAT CONCEIVABLY SOMETHING INTERESTING MIGHT COME OUT OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S VISIT REGARDING GIBRALTAR, WHICH WAS OF COURSE A MATTER OF MAJOR INTEREST TO SPAIN, AND IF SO, OREJA WOULD ALSO MENTION THIS.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE DATE AND THE PLACE FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING, SOLANO CONFIRMED THAT SEPTEMBER 30 IN NEW YORK WOULD BE MOST CONVENIENT FOR SPAIN. THE 29TH WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR SPAIN BECAUSE OF SPECIAL UN EVENTS THAT DAY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING MIGHT BEGIN AT 11:30 A.M. AND BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT 1:00 P.M.

3. I SAID THAT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY WE WERE ALSO THINKING OF SEPTEMBER 30, BUT WITH THE MEETING TO BEGIN

AROUND NOON AND TO BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH ABOUT 1:30. I
STRESSED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD AS YET MADE NO DECISION,
BUT THAT I HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE SOON TO
GIVE THE SPANISH A DEFINITE DATE, PLACE AND TIME.STABLER

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